

THE CONCISE
OXFORD DICTIONARY
OF CURRENT ENGLISH

Edited by
H. W. FOWLER AND F. G. FOWLER
based on
The Oxford Dictionary

FOURTH EDITION

Revised by
E. MCINTOSH



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PREFACE TO THE FOURTH EDITION

In this completely revised and reset edition numerous corrections and additions have been made to bring the book up to date. Thanks are due to the many correspondents who have pointed out errors or suggested improvements. Especially must I express my gratitude to Dr Scholes, Dr Honeyman, and Mr J. M. Wylie for the valuable assistance given for musical terms, chemical terms, and many technical terms. The officials of the Clarendon Press too, past and present, have throughout been most helpful.

In this edition the system of pronunciation devised for the *Pocket Oxford Dictionary* has been adopted, the senses have been usually numbered, the general abbreviations have been collected into an appendix, and the swung dash has been freely employed.

Swung dash (~).

To save space the 'swung dash' or 'tilde' is very frequently used in the body of the article or the list of derivatives. It represents either the complete word at the beginning of the article or the uninflected part of that word often marked by a vertical line. As, for example, in the article repeat, ~ stands for *repeat* (or repeat), ~ed for *repeated*, ~edly for *repeatedly*, ~ing for *repeating*, ~er for *repeater*, and in the article reverberate we have ~ating, ~ate, ~atory, ~ation, ~ative, ~ant representing *reverberating*, *reverberate*, *reverberatory*, *reverberation*, *reverberative*, *reverberant*.

E. McL., 1950

From the PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

THE publication of the Supplement to the *Oxford English Dictionary* in November 1933 makes important additions to the material which it is the aim of this book, as a dictionary of the living language, to present. Mr H. W. Fowler entrusted me with the preparation of this edition in February 1933, and until his death on the 26th December of that year I had the privilege of his guidance.

H. G. LE MESURIER, 1934

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